MOUNTING_PERFINS

By Michael Rucklidge.

    The problem of mounting and displaying perfins seems to have
no clear-cut solution. The "best" answer depends on what one
collects. This can vary enormously according to the individual's
taste and amount of time devoted and (see recent auction realis-
ations!) the amount of money available. For instance one can
collect :
     (1) all perfins on as many different stamps for each as one
          can get.
     (2) a single copy of all perfins.
     (3) identified perfins.
     (4) perfins with a specific theme such as those used in one's
          home town, full names, patterns, those related to a
          particular industry or profession.
    And no doubt many other collecting guide-lines are possible.

    As there are upwards of 20,000 British perfins and some 3,000
identified perfins, (1) and (2) above present formidable problems
both in space and expense. Options (3) and (4) are somewhat easier
but there is still one big snag. Strict alphabetical order is
highly desirable, since otherwise the task of deciding whether one
has, or has not, a particular perfin is laborious. The difficulty
arises when we consider that, despite the immense efforts of our
catalogue editors, new perfins are always coming to light.
Consequently we need a "one perfin to one page" system in a
loose leaf fashion. Unless a very limited field is chosen this
can entail considerable expense. Also a single stamp per page (if
only a single copy is collected) looks rather isolated.

    Recently I tried the 5 x 3 inch filing cards available at
stationers. These can easily hold.
     (1)   two perfins (on stamps of normal size) or one perfin and
           a tracing or photograph of the perfin.
     (2)   perfin letters.
     (3)   numbers of holes in letters.
     (4)   height of letters.
     (5)   catalogue number.
     (6)   user (if known)

    These cards can be kept in the metal filing trays sold for the
purpose (or, if you are short of money, in a shoe-box.)

    I did not find this system entirely satisfactory since a card
has to be extracted entirely for checking. So I am now experiment-
ing in mounting these three to an A4 sheet. Album pages
would no doubt look better, but would be rather expensive. Most
stationers sell these sheets in "heavy typing" paper at about lp
per sheet. The cards are mounted in "post-card album style" i.e.
4 diagonal cuts across the corners of each card position are made
by a sharp knife using a template.

I intend mounting these perhaps 50 or so at a time between
stout card outers using the "plastic prong spine". By inserting
blank sheets every so often it will be possible to maintain the
cards in strict order with a relatively small amount of rearrangement.

        At the moment I am confining myself toidentified perfins.
Even so I shall require some twenty "albums".

        Incidentally, my "raw" perfin collection is mounted on sheets
(ten to a sheet) in seven spring-back holders.

        Well there is my current solution to the problem. It would,
I am sure, be of interest to members, especially newer ones, if
others would write a short description of how they do it. Why
not drop a note to the Editor?